



5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:**

The Applicant seeks authorization to change the place of use of unperfected Provisional Permit No. 76LJ 114098-00 to reflect the current public water supply service area which includes 51 lots and to clarify the purpose of the right to include multiple domestic, lawn and garden and irrigation uses. The new place of use of unperfected Provisional Permit 76LJ 114098-00 will be the NE, Section 16, Township 29N, Range 20W Flathead County, Montana. The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)**

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Natural Heritage Program: Endangered, Threatened Species and Species of Special Concern, Wetland Mapper program
- Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks (DFWP); Dewatered Stream Information
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Clean Water Act Information and PWS Drinking Water Watch databases
- U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); web soil survey
- Montana Historical Society

**Part II. Environmental Review**

1. **Environmental Impact Checklist:**

<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

The Application is for groundwater, no additional volume or flow is authorized with Change Application 76LJ 30125073. The Applicant is proposing to change the place of use and clarify existing uses. The proposed change will not create new depletions to surface or ground water.

*Determination:* No impact.

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Proposed Change Application 76LJ 30125073 will not create new depletions to surface water or groundwater; the Applicant is changing 99.7 AF of the original 108 AF. The Department found that the proposed use will not affect water quality.

*Determination:* No significant impact.

**Groundwater** - *Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

Proposed Change Application 76LJ 30125073 will not create new depletions to surface water or groundwater. Groundwater quality will not be significantly impacted.

*Determination:* No significant impact.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

The public water supply system consists of Well #1 (GWIC No. 200805) and Well #2 (GWIC No. 188165), eight 119-gallon hydropneumatic pressure tanks and distribution piping. The well pumps operate lead-lag. Each well was drilled by a licensed well driller, license No. WWC-458. Well #1 is equipped with a Franklin Electric model 2822039330 15-hp motor control box. Well #2 has a Franklin Electric model 282203310 15-hp motor control box. Both wells are equipped with a 15-hp Grundfos submersible pump with a rated capacity of 150 GPM at 300 feet of total dynamic head. Each well and pump is capable of producing the permitted flow rate of 150 GPM. The water system is a permitted public water supply (No. MT0004220) under regulation of the MDEQ. The system was designed by a licensed engineer and approved by the DEQ. The Applicant maintains two in-line flow meters with totalizers near each well head.

*Determination:* No significant impact.

#### **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program and DFWP websites were reviewed to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern", that could be impacted by the proposed project.

According to the Montana Natural Heritage Program in Township 29N, Range 20W there are four plant species of concern, Deer Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), Latah Tule Pea (*Lathyrus bijugatus*), Beaked Spikerush (*Eleocharis rostellata*), and Aloina moss (*Aloina brevirostris*). This subdivision is almost fully built out, impact to any of the four sensitive plant species has most likely already occurred.

The Canada Lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*), Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are listed as threatened by the USFS. The Westslope Cuthroat Trout

(*Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi*), Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) are listed as sensitive by the USFS. No new depletions to surface water or groundwater will occur as a result of this Change Authorization.

*Determination:* No significant impact.

**Wetlands** - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

*Determination:* N/A, project does not involve wetlands or critical riparian habitats

**Ponds** - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

*Determination:* N/A, project does not involve ponds.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

According to soil survey data provided by the NRCS, soil within the place of use consists mostly of gravely silt loam and silt loam that is well drained. The soils are not susceptible to saline seep. Use of groundwater will not cause degradation of soil quality and stability.

*Determination:* No impact.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Any impacts to existing vegetation will be within the range of current disturbances due to current development within the subdivision.

*Determination:* No impact.

**AIR QUALITY** - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Adverse air quality impacts from increased air pollutants are not expected as a result of this project. No air pollutants were identified as resulting from the applicants proposed use of groundwater.

*Determination:* No impact.

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.

*Determination:* N/A, project is not located on state or federal land.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

All impacts to land, water and energy have been identified and no further impacts are anticipated.

*Determination:* No impact.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

The project is located in an area with no locally adopted environmental plans.

*Determination:* No impact.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

The proposed project will not inhibit, alter or impair access to present recreational opportunities in the area. The project is not expected to create any significant pollution, noise, or traffic congestion in the area that may alter the quality of recreational opportunities. The proposed place of use and diversion do not exist on land designated as wilderness.

*Determination:* No impact.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

There should be no significant negative impact on human health from this proposed use.

*Determination:* No impact.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes\_\_\_ No x If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

*Determination:* No impact.

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? None identified.
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? None identified.
- (c) Existing land uses? None identified.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None identified.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? None identified.
- (f) Demands for government services? None identified.
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None identified.
- (h) Utilities? None identified.
- (i) Transportation? None identified.
- (j) Safety? None identified.
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.

**2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:***

Secondary Impacts: None identified.

Cumulative Impacts: None identified.

**3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** None identified.

**4. *Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** No reasonable alternatives were identified in the EA.

**PART III. Conclusion**

**1. *Preferred Alternative:*** None identified.

**2. *Comments and Responses:*** None.

**3. *Finding:***

Yes\_\_\_ No x\_\_\_ Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

***If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:***

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action because no significant impacts were identified.

***Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:***

*Name:* Melissa Brickl

*Title:* Hydrologist/Water Resource Specialist

*Date:* March 11, 2020